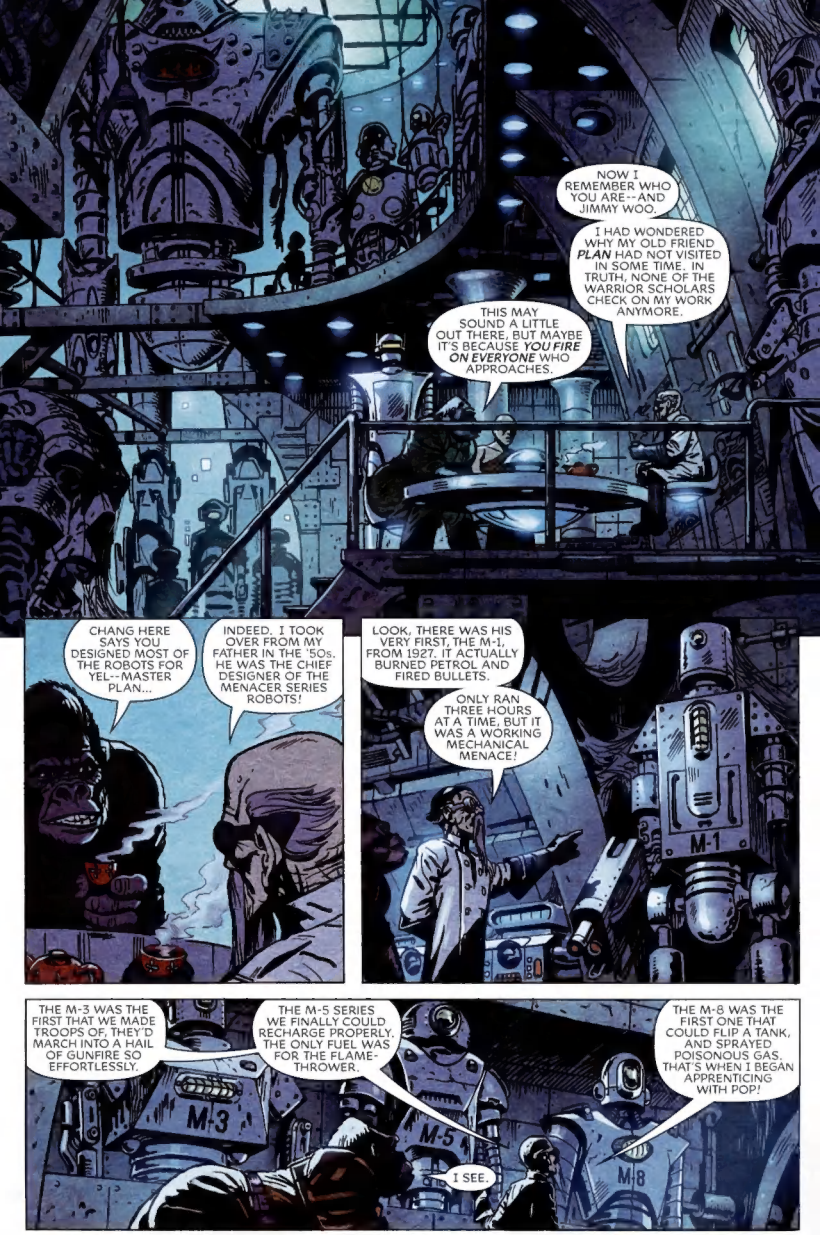
The Weapons Maker
NEVER BEEN IN THIS PART BEFORE; THOUGHT I'D SEEN THE WHOLE CITY.
IT IS A PRECARIOUS THING TO VENTURE DOWN HERE, BUT WE MAY FIND WHAT YOU SEEK.
WHAT'S SO RISKY TO SEE IN OUR OWN-- HEY!
ZAP
ZAPP
ZAP
ZAAP
ZAPPP
ZAPP
ZAP
ZAAP
ZAP
ZAP
ZAAP
ZAPPP
ZAPP
I TRIED TO SEND A MESSAGE EARLIER TO PREVENT THIS!
M-11, GET OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE OR PUT A SHIELD UP!
BEEEEP BEEP
BEEP BEEEEEEP
BEEP

HUH. HE MUST HAVE DISARMED IT SOMEHOW.
I THINK HE SENT A COMMUNI-CATION!
CLONG
CLANG
SHHHNNK
WHO IS THERE? WHO KNOWS THE OLD PASSCODE?
MANY PARDONS! ARE YOU THE MOST HONORABLE DR. ZU?
I AM! IS THIS...M-11? I HAVE NOT SEEN HIM IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS!
TWENTY FIVE--HOW LONG HAVE YOU...?
INTERESTING--ARE YOU FROM THE ANIMAL MODIFICATION LAB?
NO, AND IF THAT STILL EXISTS I'M CLOSING IT DOWN!
THIS IS GENERAL HALE OF MASTER WOO'S INNER CIRCLE, DOCTOR.
GOOD TO MEET YOU TOO, I THINK.
WE HAVE A NEW MASTER? WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?
LITTLE OUT OF TOUCH.
COME INTO THE LAB, I MUST HEAR OF THIS NEWS!


NOW I REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE--AND JIMMY WOO.
I HAD WONDERED WHY MY OLD FRIEND *PLAN* HAD NOT VISITED IN SOME TIME. IN TRUTH, NONE OF THE WARRIOR SCHOLARS CHECK ON MY WORK ANYMORE.
THIS MAY SOUND A LITTLE OUT THERE, BUT MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE *YOU FIRE ON EVERYONE* WHO APPROACHES.
CHANG HERE SAYS YOU DESIGNED MOST OF THE ROBOTS FOR YEL--MASTER PLAN...
INDEED. I TOOK OVER FROM MY FATHER IN THE '50s. HE WAS THE CHIEF DESIGNER OF THE MENACER SERIES ROBOTS!
LOOK, THERE WAS HIS VERY FIRST, THE M-1, FROM 1927. IT ACTUALLY BURNED PETROL AND FIRED BULLETS.
ONLY RAN THREE HOURS AT A TIME, BUT IT WAS A WORKING MECHANICAL MENACE!
M-1
THE M-3 WAS THE FIRST THAT WE MADE TROOPS OF. THEY'D MARCH INTO A HAIL OF GUNFIRE SO EFFORTLESSLY.
THE M-5 SERIES WE FINALLY COULD RECHARGE PROPERLY. THE ONLY FUEL WAS FOR THE FLAME-THROWER.
THE M-8 WAS THE FIRST ONE THAT COULD FLIP A TANK, AND SPRAYED POISONOUS GAS. THAT'S WHEN I BEGAN APPRENTICING WITH POP!
M-3
M-5
M-8
I SEE.

THE M-12'S WERE VERY ADAPTABLE, AND EASY TO REPROGRAM. WE STUCK WITH THEM FOR YEARS. OBVIOUSLY WE SKIP PAST M-11 BECAUSE HE IS WITH YOU.
THERE WEREN'T ANY MORE OF HIM?
NO, HE WAS THE ONLY ONE MADE AND LOST TO US. FOUND BY... A MERMAID, I BELIEVE?

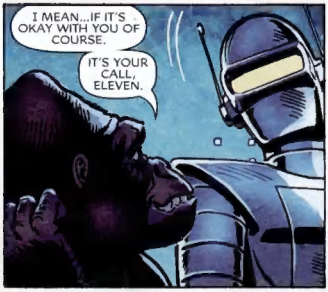
NAMORA, SAY, COULD ANY OF THE OTHERS THINK LIKE M-11? ON THEIR OWN?
I ASSUMED THE SPACE BOY ALTERED HIM TO. HE CLEARLY TRANSMUTED MUCH OF THE METAL TO A STRONGER ONE AND REPLACED THE POWER CORE.
BOB SAID HE NEVER TOUCHED THE BRAINBOX, EXCEPT TO REINFORCE IT. YOU MADE HIM, RIGHT?

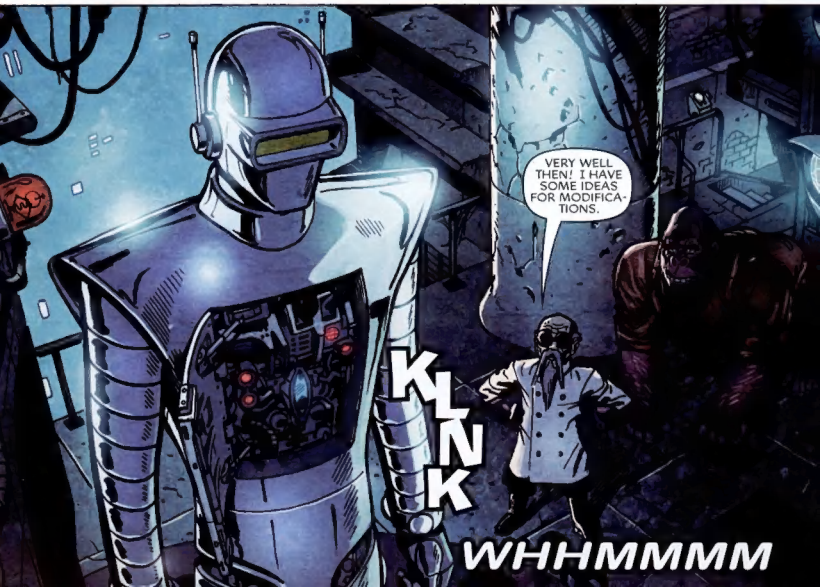
I ONLY DESIGNED THE DEATH RAY AND ELECTRO HANDS. MASTER PLAN HAD ME WORKING ON ANTI-AIR GUNS AT THE TIME, M-11 WAS OVERSEEN BY CYRUS VIRRO.
A BRILLIANT BUT TROUBLED MAN, UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE GOALS OF THE MENACER SERIES, BUT DESPERATE TO HAVE HIS ROBOTICS WORK FUNDED.

I SUSPECTED VIRRO WAS APPLYING HIS ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IDEAS, BUT THE ROBOT ELECTROCUTED HIM AND THEN TRIED TO DESTROY ITSELF IN THE SEA. YOU CAN SEE WHY WE MOVED ON.
NOW HERE--FOR A WHILE WE FOCUSED ON HUMAN REPLICAS BUT THE PROJECT GREW INDULGENT...
THAT'S GREAT DOC, BUT OUR PROBLEM IS A LITTLE HARSHER THAN THAT.
M, SHOW 'IM JADE CLAW'S GUY.

WE JUST GOT OUR HATS HANDED TO US BY THIS HOSS THEY WERE CALLING M-21.
SO! WE DISCONTINUED THE M SERIES BY VERSION 15, THIS...
AH...PLAN'S NIECE! SHE STOLE MUCH OF MY DESIGNS--AND MUST HAVE CONTINUED THE LINE!

LEVITATION, I HAD BEEN WANTING TO DO THAT.
WELL YOU CAN GET BACK IN THE GAME, ZU. I WAS THINKING MAYBE WE COULD OUTFIT M-11 WITH SOME NEW GADGETS, EVEN UP THE PLAYING FIELD.


I MEAN...IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU OF COURSE.
IT'S YOUR CALL, ELEVEN.

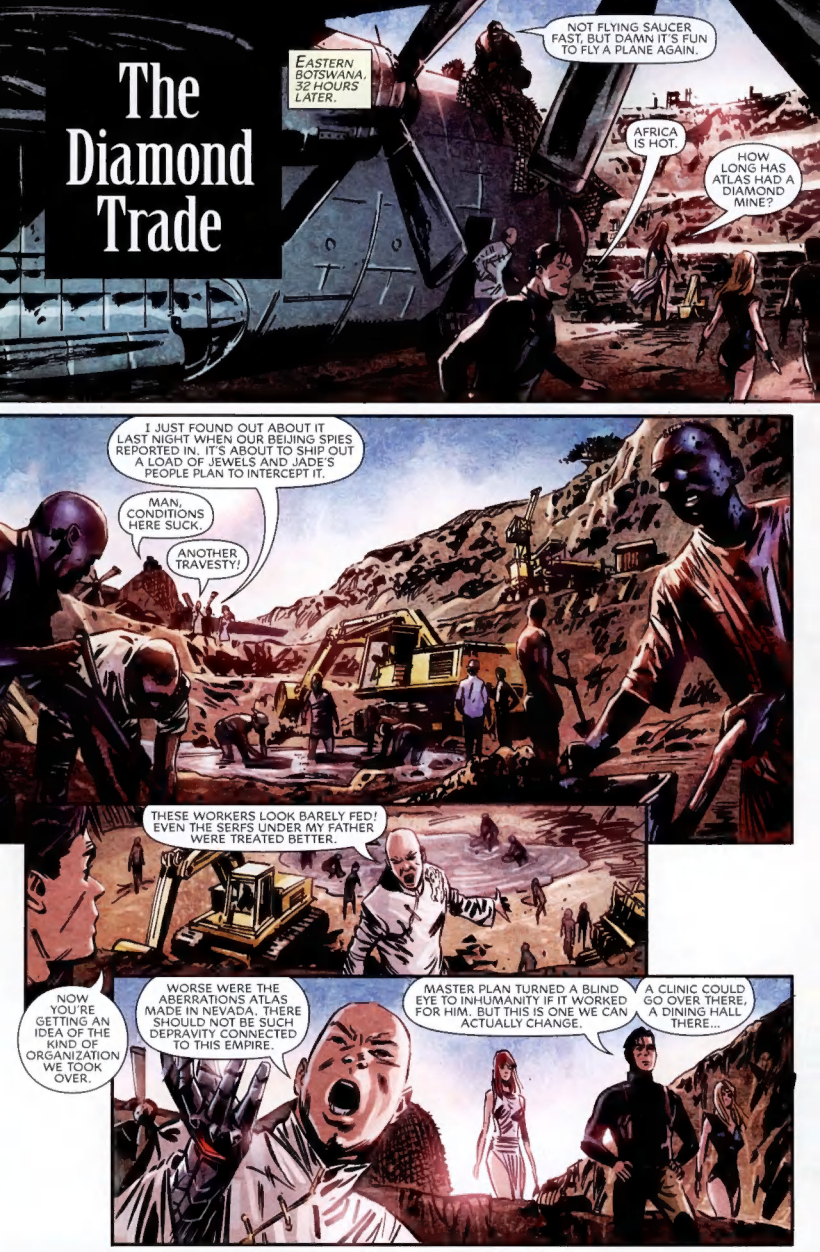

VERY WELL THEN! I HAVE SOME IDEAS FOR MODIFICATIONS.
KLNK
WHHMMMM

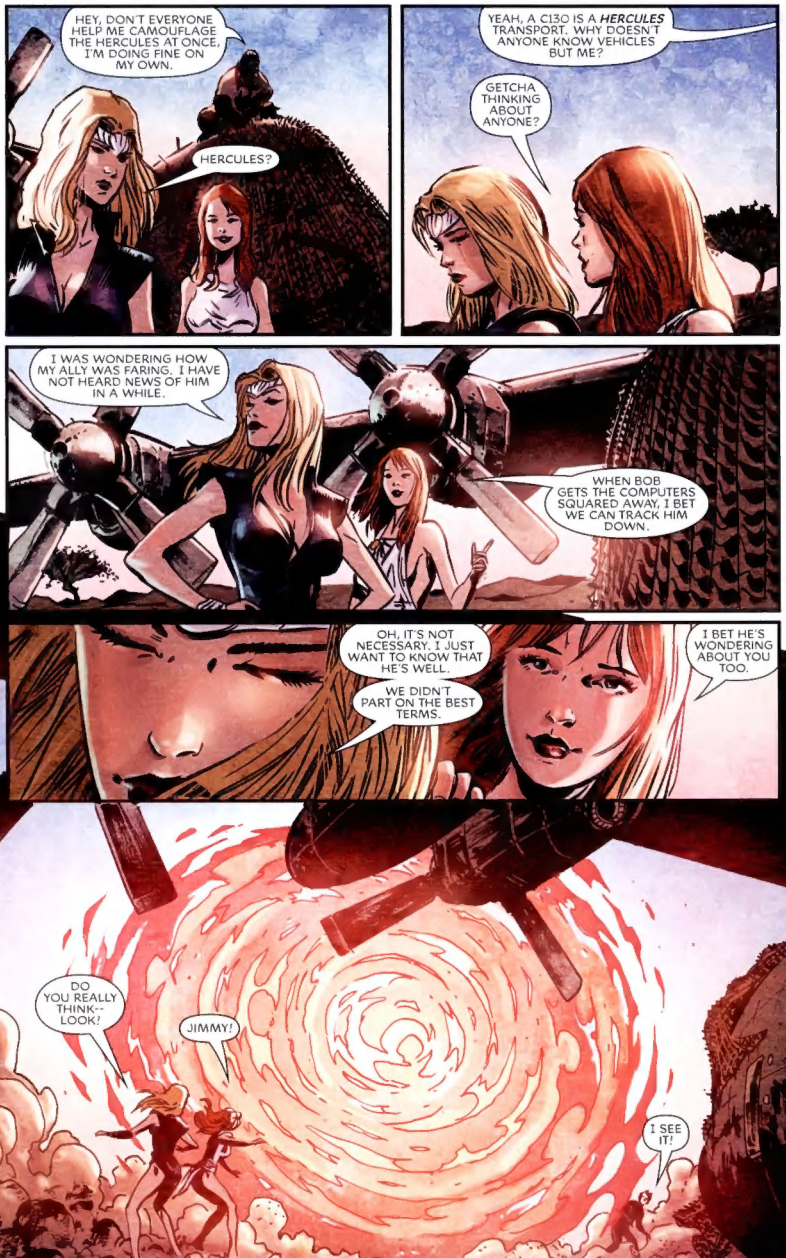
NOW WHY WOULD IT BE A BIG DEAL FOR ANOTHER DRAGON TO BE INVOLVED, LAO?
IT CHANGES EVERYTHING! THIS IS NOT CONVENTIONAL ENGAGEMENT IF SO!
HMF.
SO BE IT, THEN. COME WITH ME TO MY ANTECHAMBER.
THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO, YOUR KIND AND MINE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE...
... IN GRAND TERRITORIAL STRUGGLES KNOWN AS THE DRAGON CLAN WARS.
MY KIND WERE FEW AND LIVED FAR APART, EACH OFFERING COUNSEL TO THE MEN OF THEIR REGION.
MEN'S CONFLICTS BECAME DRAGON'S CONFLICTS. ALLIANCES WERE FORGED, NEW ENEMIES MADE.
THERE WAS WORLD WAR LONG BEFORE THAT OF RECENT HISTORY. THE DRAGONS SHOWED THEIR PEOPLE THE CORRIDOR YOU NOW USE, WHERE GREAT DISTANCES WERE REDUCED.
BATTLES TENDED TO GO IN FAVOR OF THE ARMY WHOSE DRAGONS MOLTED MORE OFTEN-- AS YOU KNOW, YOU NEED ONE OF OUR SCALES TO REPEL THE NATURAL ENERGIES OF THE CORRIDOR.
MORE SCALES MEANT LARGER FORCES.

A SORCERER SUPREME OF THAT DISTANT ERA FOUND A WAY TO SEAL THE GATEWAYS AND END THE WARS. HE LIKELY PRESERVED BOTH OUR SPECIES.
QUITE POTENT MAGIC, IT ONLY WORE OFF WITHIN THE PAST CENTURY.
I HAVE SOME IDEA OF HOW MANY DRAGONS MAY STILL EXIST, BUT KNOWING A SPECIFIC ONE IS CRUCIAL.
DRAGONS ARE MASTER STRATEGISTS AND CAN ONLY BE COUNTERED WITH THE RIP OF ANOTHER.
THEN IT'S A GOOD THING WE HAVE ONE, ISN'T IT?
JADE CLAW'S ADVISOR WAS MORE LIKE A SEA SERPENT. SHE CALLED HIM YAO.
YAO...

Night Radio Pt. 2

...HER EFFECT IS PROFOUND, WEBB-- SOLDIERS STATIONED AT FORT KNOX CLAIMED THAT SHE MADE THEM DROP THEIR WEAPONS AND ABANDON THEIR POSTS.
IF INDEED THIS IS THE SAME WOMAN THAT YOU CALL VENUS.
770 AM
THIS SOUNDS LIKE THE WOMAN YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR.
STILL PASSING HERSELF OFF WITH MY ROMAN NAME.
PUT ALL WE HAVE ON FINDING THESE ATLAS OPERATIONS THE AUTHOR MENTIONED. IN FACT, FIND OUT WHERE *HE* LIVES.
WE'LL SEE IF THIS IS THE MORTAL BITCH WHO HAS BEEN CALLING HERSELF *VENUS*.


The Diamond Trade
EASTERN BOTSWANA, 32 HOURS LATER.
NOT FLYING SAUCER FAST, BUT DAMN IT'S FUN TO FLY A PLANE AGAIN.
AFRICA IS HOT.
HOW LONG HAS ATLAS HAD A DIAMOND MINE?
I JUST FOUND OUT ABOUT IT LAST NIGHT WHEN OUR BEIJING SPIES REPORTED IN. IT'S ABOUT TO SHIP OUT A LOAD OF JEWELS AND JADE'S PEOPLE PLAN TO INTERCEPT IT.
MAN, CONDITIONS HERE SUCK.
ANOTHER TRAVESTY!
THESE WORKERS LOOK BARELY FED! EVEN THE SERFS UNDER MY FATHER WERE TREATED BETTER.
NOW YOU'RE GETTING AN IDEA OF THE KIND OF ORGANIZATION WE TOOK OVER.
WORSE WERE THE ABERRATIONS ATLAS MADE IN NEVADA. THERE SHOULD NOT BE SUCH DEPRAVITY CONNECTED TO THIS EMPIRE.
MASTER PLAN TURNED A BLIND EYE TO INHUMANITY IF IT WORKED FOR HIM. BUT THIS IS ONE WE CAN ACTUALLY CHANGE.
A CLINIC COULD GO OVER THERE, A DINING HALL THERE...


HEY, DON'T EVERYONE HELP ME CAMOUFLAGE THE HERCULES AT ONCE, I'M DOING FINE ON MY OWN.
HERCULES?
YEAH, A C130 IS A HERCULES TRANSPORT. WHY DOESN'T ANYONE KNOW VEHICLES BUT ME?
GETCHA THINKING ABOUT ANYONE?
I WAS WONDERING HOW MY ALLY WAS FARING. I HAVE NOT HEARD NEWS OF HIM IN A WHILE.
WHEN BOB GETS THE COMPUTERS SQUARED AWAY, I BET WE CAN TRACK HIM DOWN.
OH, IT'S NOT NECESSARY. I JUST WANT TO KNOW THAT HE'S WELL.
WE DIDN'T PART ON THE BEST TERMS.
I BET HE'S WONDERING ABOUT YOU TOO.
DO YOU REALLY THINK-- LOOK!
JIMMY!
I SEE IT!

THE INFO WAS A PLANT!
THEY KNOW HOW TO MOVE THROUGH A CORRIDOR GATEWAY!
I WILL DISPATCH THEM MYSELF!
WE EXPECTED SOMETHING LIKE THIS--
--KEN, SEND OUT THE TROOPS!
--WASTED ALL THIS TIME WITH THE STUPID NET--
HORDE GUARD-- ADVANCE!
KUBLAI TEAM, TAKE THEIR LEFT FLANK!
KOCHU TEAM, STRAFE THAT FRONT LINE!
MOVE!
MOVE!
MOVE!

THEY'VE GOT AUDIO BLOCKERS ON, YOU NEED TO TAKE COVER!
OKAY!
<CUT THAT ADVANCE!>
GO, GO!
<GRENADES!>
WE ARE READY FOR YOU THIS TIME!
I HAVE CHANNELED FROM ALL POINTS OF CHI! HE WHO FACES ME TODAY DIES!

AND HE'S GOING TO DEMOLISH THAT THING!
CONTINUED!

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